

Bible reflection on our planet

To mark the 2023 Ecumenical 'Season of Creation' Pope Francis sent a message of encouragement. Among other things, he wrote:

'Let Justice and Peace Flow' is the theme of this year's ecumenical Season of Creation, inspired by the words of the prophet Amos, 'Let justice flow on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.' (5.24)

The evocative image used by Amos speaks to us of what God desires. God wants justice to reign; it is as essential to our life as God's children made in His likeness as water is essential for our physical survival. This justice must flow forth wherever it is needed, neither remaining hidden deep beneath the ground, nor vanishing like water that evaporates before it can bring sustenance.

God wants everyone to strive to be just in every situation, to live according to His laws and thus enable life to flourish. When we "seek first the kingdom of God", maintaining a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow like a never-failing stream of pure water, nourishing humanity and all creatures.

Prayer

Let justice roll down like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream, for all whose lives are being devastated by climate change.

Give us generous hearts and sacrificial lives, committed to sharing fairly all earth's bounteous gifts. Amen

October

Daily prayer for the month

Creator God,
create within us a thirst for wonder and awe.
Inspire us to worship you as we observe and respond to the magnificence of your creation seen in all its vastness
and in the smallest of details.
Teach us to revere and respect all that you have made in order that we become wise protectors, sustainers and co-creators with you. Amen

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 We thank God for this world in all its bountifulness and its beauty, and those who farm it, and we simply pray His ongoing blessing on it all.

Week 2 As the war in Ukraine rolls on, we pray for peace, for grain channels to be reopened for all, and for money spent on war to be spent on climate justice.

Week 3 As African leaders propose global carbon taxes, we pray for justice for people in developing countries, who had so small a role in creating this crisis.

Week 4 As we see the UK government, and others also, backtracking on climate promises, we pray for our leaders: for courage, humility and Your wisdom.

Dates in October

4 World Habitat Day – St Francis' Day
10 World Mental Health Day
18 Anti-Slavery Day
24 United Nations Day

November

Daily prayer for the month

Eternal God, your love, truth and justice reign throughout the world.
Alert us to your presence expressed within and revealed throughout the whole of creation day by day, opening our ears to your voice and your song.
May we be inspired to love, trust and honour you as we seek to live in harmony with every living being. Amen

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 We pray for us ordinary people the world over, that we may have wisdom to know who to listen to. We pray for truth, but also courage.

Week 2 As the UN leadership talks no longer of warming but of global boiling, we pray that the UN and all world leaders will find consensus - and act.

Week 3 We pray for leaders, in academia, the media, our schools, social media, the arts, business, and in the sciences: for grace to understand and the courage to speak out. And that they will be heard.

Week 4 We pray for COP28, opening 20 Nov, that funds may be found from rich nations to help victims of climate change, rising sea levels, in poorer nations.

Dates in November

6-11 Green Careers Week
19-27 European Week for Waste Reduction
25 World Tree Week begins
30 COP28 Conference begins in Abu Dhabi

December

Daily prayer for the month

As the earth is stripped back and laid bare in this winter season, we wait in hope for the stirring of new life. Help us to grow into a people who seek to sustain, restore and renew the earth that you love and which you chose to walk on as a human being. May we become hope-bringers, working creatively in unity to bring wholeness and wellbeing to our struggling planet. Amen

Intercessions for the month

Week 1 As El Niño strengthens and the oceans hit unheard-of temperatures, we pray for those affected by the resulting droughts, storms, wild-fires and heatwaves. We pray for the marine environment and wise and fair fish management.

Week 2 We pray that the resolutions reached at COP28 this week may result in real change; and that world leaders will carry out the agreed plans.

Week 3 We pray for the perception in our own lives to see how the choices we make affect the planet, and how we can make a difference.

Week 4 As we remember Jesus born into humanity among the most ordinary of people, we pray that all across the globe will look to Him - and join hands.

Dates in December

1-12 COP 28 continues in Abu Dhabi
1 World Aids Day
18 International Migrants Day

The Southwell Minster Creation Prayer

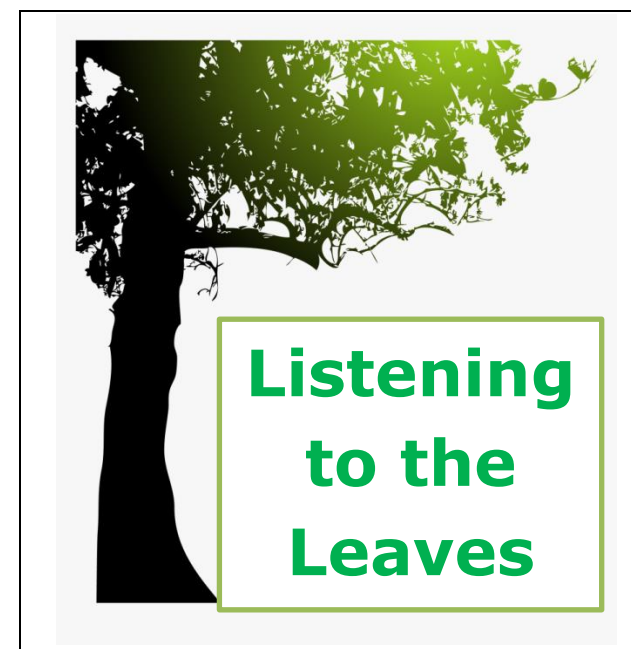
Gracious God, source of all life, we praise you for the wonder and diversity of the natural world, and we thank you for the genius of the craftsmen who carved the Chapter House leaves that speak to us still. Open our hearts and minds to your guiding Spirit that we may discern together how best to cherish this good earth and safeguard its resources. As we listen to the leaves, show us how to share in Creation's song and rediscover our harmony in you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen



Southwell Minster in partnership with A Rocha UK

Action Points

- Not be discouraged if people get bored of the climate debate!
- Maybe turn the heating down one degree and wear more indoors to keep warm
- Think about food miles – the distances our food and drinks are transported



**Prayers for the
Integrity of Creation
October - December 2023**